

THE BELL RINGER



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MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY

October 28, 1991

The New Government: MBA's Student Council

Patrick Hale

Last year the student council and class officers were separated to allow for more student leadership and to allow for more school-wide and class opportunities.

With the separation, the newly elected officers of the student council believe it is going to make for a great year. Secretary Roy Alley said, "We're trying to work in a few more co-ed functions with Harpeth Hall this year."

I've got lots of connections over there — especially with the underclassmen."

Treasurer John Schlansker also agrees that the division of the Student Council from the class offices, "will allow us to concentrate more on the school as a whole — for there is a time for work, and there is also a time for play."

The '91-'92 Student Council seems to be "a breath of fresh air," says President Joe Underwood who sees this school year as a chance for the Student Council to become, "much more efficient in its duties," and he requests that any student with a complaint

or an idea about anything to come talk to him or another representative of the Student Council.

Underwood sees the Council as a connection between the student body and the administration.

Other members of the Student Council include Vice-President P. Hale, Frazer Buntin, Ward Waltemath, Tom Hamling, Andy Ward, Jim Bowen, Stephen Ward, Bradley Sloan, and Will Hickerson.

Thank You Coach Owen!



Photo by Russell Acosta

To honor Coach Tommy Owen's great contributions to Montgomery Bell Academy both on and off the football field, the administration and board recently named the football stadium in his honor.

Many captains from past teams came to watch their coach and mentor receive this accolade. *The Bell Ringer*, too, would like to add its thanks and congratulations to Coach Owen.

MBA's Corporate Takeover

Hunter Connelly

Last summer, senior Randy Tidwell was a finalist in the Corporate Leadership Competition sponsored by Junior Achievement.

Randy learned of the contest through his substitute economics teacher, Mr. Chapman. Two thousand students from all over took

the multiple choice test in Bloomington, IN.

The test tried to determine which students possessed the most leadership potential. Randy not only was named finalist, but he also met many different people.

He commented, "It was great meeting people from

around the world." Countries represented in the competition were the Soviet Union, Mexico, The Bahamas, and Sweden. Twenty students from Tennessee and eight from the Nashville area competed, representing such schools as Whites Creek, Glencliff, Gallatin, and Shelbyville.

2+2=3?

Staff Reports

Fifth period lunch leaves many people confused. Time and time again students are forced either to wait to eat or eat standing up.

160 people eat lunch 5th, yet the cafeteria only has chairs for 134. It just doesn't add up.

Getting Away from it All: MBA's Outing Club

Andrew Fitzgerald

This October will mark the beginning of another great year for the MBA Outing Club. The Outing Club traces its past back many years in MBA history and was rejuvenated during the 1990 school-year.

The club's first outing will take place on October 19, when Mr. Womack and Dr. Drake take students on tours of historic Civil War battlefields. Similar trips to historic sights are planned for later in the school-year.

Rock climbing was an increasingly popular activity among Outing Club members in years past and will hopefully be offered with a greater frequency this year.

Basic rock climbing courses will be offered at Vanderbilt University to members on their artificial rock wall. The club also hopes to sponsor numerous trips topopular climbing sights in the Nashville area and near Chattanooga.

Other Outing Club activities which have drawn inter-

est include hiking, camping, spelunking, and rafting. The activities undertaken by the club are limited solely by the imaginations of its members.

The club will remain open to new ideas at all times. While as many trips as possible will be attempted, numerous activities will not be possible without active member participation.

If anyone has any questions or ideas about possible projects, please contact Andrew Fitzgerald or Mr. Womack.

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Patrick Wilson Library
Montgomery Bell Academy
Nashville, Tennessee

FEATURES

The Bell Ringer's feature this issue is a reprint of the Honor Council president's speech to the student body. The Bell Ringer is proud to feature an organization as critical to school life as the Honor Council. This reprint is intended to emphasize the importance of the Honor Council's message. Please read it carefully.

Joe Smith slides into place for his first period history class seconds before the 7:50 bell rings. With a sigh of relief, he pulls his textbook from his backpack to peruse the reading that he forgot to do last night. Then, to Joe's great dismay, the teacher proceeds to hand out a pop quiz, row by row, beginning at the other end of the room.

Joe desperately flips through the assigned pages looking for key names and dates until one of the dreaded quizzes arrives on his desk. At this point, he quickly lays his textbook on the floor, inadvertently leaving it open. He hopelessly scans the ten fill-in-the-date questions and begins to pencil in wild guesses, wondering if he's even in the correct century. About two minutes into the quiz, Joe breaks his pencil and reaches into his bag for a sharp one.

In the process, he notices that his textbook is open to a page showing a timeline that summarizes last night's material. Well aware that a zero on this quiz will bring his quarterly average down to the failing level and keep him on the DL for another four weeks, Joe quickly decides to sneak a few dates off the page. "No big deal," he reasons. "If I had studied last night, I would have known the answers anyway."

As he hands the quiz in, he feels a bit guilty, but it isn't anything he can't get over. Moreover, he figures it certainly beats confinement to after-lunch study hall for a whole month. The teacher, however, has noticed Joe's

transgression and turns the case over to the Honor Council that same day. To make the story short, Joe comes before the Council, wisely decides to admit his guilt, and receives a warning.

Now while you try to guess Joe's real identity, let me tell you that the example is purely fictitious. I made it up. The point is to warn you about that naturally occurring phenomenon called the PANIC FACTOR.

Everyone experiences it at some point; some experience it every day: it's that sick feeling in your stomach when you forget to study, when you don't know any of the answers on the test, or when you realize that you're not going to make that good grade you really need.

You will do anything to cover for yourself. Frankly, this temptation must be resisted. Don't copy Bill's English homework, take a

quick glance at Fred's test, or tell the office that you have a doctor's appointment so you can go home. Obviously, it would be better never to put yourself in an anxious situation; but because we are all fallible, it happens, and it's

important not to give in to the PANIC FACTOR.

I emphasize this point in particular because right now this point in the year seems to be the time when problems traditionally start to appear. Students have gotten into the swing of things and tend to relax a little, and scattered difficulties begin to arise.

As proof, two cases had already been reported as of last week. Another, probably more crucial time tends to be the two or three weeks at the end of each semester, during crunch time: the temptation to cheat near or at exam time can be very strong. So again I advise you to be wary of the PANIC FACTOR.

That having been said, I'd like to address what I really felt to be a negative presence on our campus last year, especially toward the end of the year: theft. Last year, there were a ridiculous number of cases involving theft. This year, I know of two incidents that have already occurred (there have probably been others), and I fear that theft is rearing its ugly head once again.

If there is an honor violation that raises the ire of the MBA student body more than others and that results in the most unhappiness for the greatest number of students, this has to be it. When the summer of 1992 rolls around, I would love to be able to look back on this school year as one that went untainted by

theft on campus. Unlike cheating where there is some gray area and where there are different standards for different classes, stealing, in my opinion, is very straightforward: just don't take anything that doesn't belong to you. If we as a student body keep this in mind, I think we can have a very successful year in this respect!

A reminder to everyone that the Honor System is very much for real and is not here to be mocked or ignored. I'm often concerned about the attitude that some students seem to carry into an Honor Council case after being turned in. In my opinion, some boys walk in the room expecting either to lie their way out or "get away" with a "only" a warning.

First, I promise you that you cannot lie to Honor Council and get away with it. When a student comes in front of the Honor Council, before he says a word, we will remind him that lying to the Honor Council is an offense in and of itself.

If that student lies anyway, he forces us to give him the next more serious punishment at least. Second, I con-

sider it a terrible mistake to interpret an Honor Council warning as a slap on

the wrist. Though it has no dire consequences, the warning is still a punishment. The intention is to correct problems now at this level without leaving a brand on a student for the rest of his life, a very real possibility if such a problem is allowed to continue on down the road. By no means the end of the world, a warning is the Honor Council's method of stopping dishonest habits before they get worse.

The warning is in a sense a misnomer. In actuality,

everyone has already been warned, but the warning remains as a safety device to give students the benefit of the doubt. In sum, should you make a mistake and come before the Honor Council, instead of mocking the situation or lying, use it as an opportunity to make yourself better.

The intent here is not to frighten anybody, especially you younger guys. The Honor Council is here to help. You don't need to go to extremes: We don't want you to worry about asking Neil how to get started on a math problem. (We don't want you to copy Neil's work, though.)

Peers are an important resource, just don't abuse that resource. There is no need to go through MBA in perpetual fear of the Honor Council, just give it the respect it deserves.

Remember that 95% of the student body never comes before the Honor Council. If you work for the Honor System, it will work for you.

When you come down to it, the students will make it or break it. Additionally, as there will be some elections coming up soon, I would like

to stress to the 8th and 9th graders the importance of selecting responsible Honor

Council representatives. Elect someone whom you know to be honest and fair.

I think that the election of Honor Council representatives is different from that of Student Council representatives or class officers in that you're not necessarily looking for a student who can relate to and stay in tune with the immediate interests of his classmates, you're looking for a student who can relate well to a strong sense of honor.

An Honorable Mention

Jackson Wray

It's important not to give in to the PANIC FACTOR.

The honor system is very much for real and not here to be mocked.

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From a friend-

Congratulations Mrs. Palmore
for an award well-deserved!

OPINIONS

Letters to the Editor

Political Organizations on MBA's Campus

Dear MBA,

Last issue, I made a call for people to write letters to the editor. Several of you did. However, perhaps if I explain what exactly can be done with this section, more people will contribute.

If you find an article, comment, another letter, or anything at all a bit objectionable, you can write a brief statement to the paper attacking, criticizing, or reaffirming something printed.

This section is the student body's area for free comment. Because letters can be short or shortened by the editors, many can be printed. Additionally, they take very little effort or time to write.

The letters in this issue are unusually long. I encourage everyone to consider

writing a letter to the paper.

Letters to the editor is not just a section for the students. If any faculty member would like to comment about the paper, please write in.

I believe that it will make a much more interesting paper if opinions from all members of the MBA community are expressed. Faculty members please feel free to write to the paper.

Finally, I would also like to mention that the paper has received no classifieds. As attested to by the numerous advertisements in the paper, *The Bell Ringer* is a wonderful place to announce that you have something to sell or are looking for something to buy.

Sincerely,

Alex Rogers, Editor-in-Chief

Dear Bell Ringer,

We minors here in America have lived our lives under the burden of our parents' society, and soon we will be expected to take the reins from the "baby boomers."

I would like to respond to Andrew Fitzgerald's article concerning the political awareness or lack thereof in MBA students. While I concur with Mr. Fitzgerald that MBA students should be conscious of the social and political welfare of the state, I must state that for fairness's sake, school-sponsored political events should not be attempted.

Firstly, not every MBA student shares the views of the Republican Party. I, for one, disagree with several of their tenets as do several other

people on campus. If a Republican group were to emerge on campus, other political groups would appear and perhaps disrupt the continuity of the school.

Second, I have always pictured the school as apolitical, a place where one's particular social, political, and religious views are, for the most part, accepted by all. I do not wish to endanger this attitude.

On the other hand, political and social involvement is imperative for adolescents, and there I agree with Mr. Fitzgerald.

I would also like to point out the variety of social action organizations available at MBA: the Soup Kitchen, the Boys' Club tutoring program, the Recycle MBA organiza-

tion, the Service Club, and others.

These organizations provide an outlet for students to contribute their skills and help ameliorate some of the social traumas of our city. Any student may take advantage of these programs. Furthermore, political organizations are useful for developing a sense of knowledge and belief in the government, and indeed I support these groups, but they need not be school-sponsored or school-controlled by any means lest the school tear itself asunder.

Sincerely,

Andrew Vahrenkamp

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Crappie Complaint

Dear Bell Ringer,

With the start of a new year, many fresh and creative ideas should be proposed by ingenious MBA students. A great way to profess one's ideas and creativity is through the *Bell Ringer*.

This year, a plethora of students may be deprived of this privilege due to the interest of a small percent of the faculty and student body. For example, the "Crappy Corner," written by Malcolm Sewell and Hunter Connelly, appears to have had its continuation into the new school year denied.

For those of you unaware, the "Crappy Corner" was an article aiding fellow fishermen in a funny southern dialect with tips on the hot spots where one can pull in those big fish.

Of course, the faculty and some students will find this information useless, but what right does this percentile have

to dominate a newspaper organized by the students at a high school level?

Furthermore, I personally have spoken with teachers who really enjoyed the "Crappy Corner." All in all, I believe the students should not allow a certain unit of the school to make its own

changes without the support of the majority.

I hope to find diverse, enlightening, and comical editions of the newspaper. Good luck to the 91-92 *Bell Ringer*!

Sincerely,

Chris Johnston



Photo by Justin Crosslin

Theme Day

OPINIONS

A Conservative Rebuke

Behdad Shahsavari

Mr. Bush stepped into office on a platform of great programs and promises which won him the title of the most popular president ever. Despite the enormous popularity President Bush holds with the public, his domestic agenda seems sorely lacking from an objective viewpoint.

Some would argue that his foreign policy, as well, is not as beneficial as he pretends.

For a president who claims to be "the Education President," Bush's recent veto of the Democrats' bill to education funding seems quite hypocritical.

Additionally, Bush has an education stance of his own, making yet another set of campaign promises seem empty indeed.

Mr. Bush also recently vetoed an employment bill which would have created more government jobs and decreased much bureaucratic waste. His argument was that he didn't want to spend the money. Surely the gain in jobs and increased efficiency would be worth the money; yet with election time on the way, Mr. Bush feels it is unwise to spend money on new programs.

And what of the recent Civil Rights bill which again met Presidential wrath in Congress? Bush complained

of quotas and irregular methods of regulation in the bill, but why could he not amend it with his own fair policies? Certainly he has something better than the disparities existing now.

And now to "no new taxes" as a motto. It has to be hard to stick to that policy platform when one of two ways to fund new programs is taxation. It seems that Mr. Bush doesn't get the blame for this, however, or any of the other contradictions in his governmental policies.

Mr. Bush always has Congress to blame, or inadequacies in the legislation itself. Where, one might ask, are his own proposals to solve these problems? Where are the lower taxes and better education promised to his voters.

Even internationally, Mr. Bush has gotten away with supposedly tough stance which benefits the U.S., despite the fact that they are directly contradicting his promises of old.

Israeli loans for property were wiped out by Bush, who promised them earlier and now justifies his withdrawal because of Israeli-Palestinian tensions.

Most Favored Nation trade status with China, too, has been put off by President Bush. A plan in the works for months which promises to

benefit both our economies and ease tensions has been shifted to the back burner by Bush at election time.

It seems to me that Mr. Bush promises major, popular measures and pulls for them with a tough stance, until the potential for responsibility arises. When important measures come to final legislation, that is when Mr. Bush finds an excuse to renege or leave some minor formality unfulfilled.

Perhaps the budget is important and the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks have slowed, but but these minor issues are overshadowed by the big hype measures our President promised.

It is too easy for him to pretend to have a hardline stance when in reality he is backing down on a bill; it is too easy to evade personal responsibility for potentially controversial or experimental issues by cutting bureaucratic budgets.

But it is simply too close to election time for a popularity check or a potentially failed program. So for Bush's reelection, we the voters are stuck with another term without education reform, Civil Rights corrections, strong foreign policy actions, or employment measures.

Political Correctness?

Garrett Kyle

Although the term "political correctness" has appeared with increasing frequency in newspapers and magazines over the past couple of years, the movement itself has hardly received the attention it deserves from the general public and even from those directly involved in education. It is a movement that threatens to destroy completely America's colleges and universities and to corrupt an entire generation of students.

Society has always looked to its institutions of higher learning for intellectual leadership and for the shaping of responsible, thoughtful citizens.

When these institutions prefer fashionable nonsense to truth and emotion to rationality, as proponents of the movement would have them do, society is in grave danger.

The basic problem has been described as a "tyranny of the minority." Various minority political groups have demanded that the number of admitted students of one of the recognized minorities be proportional to the minority's percentage in the population.

Thus, race, rather than merit, becomes the governing factor in the admissions process and many unqualified students are admitted.

Schools that have adopted this plan brag about the figures showing this "correct" proportionality, but

remain very quiet about figures revealing the alarmingly large number of these students who drop out because they simply cannot compete with better prepared students. Figures also show that the most "correct" schools are the ones with the most racial incidents.

These same minority groups have also demanded that universities abandon the traditional curriculum based on Western civilization because, they argue, its white progenitors, the Greeks and the Romans, were racist.

The fact is, however, that this curriculum is taught not because it is "white" but because Western civilization was based on capitalism, democracy, and the superiority of the individual, all concepts that are alien to most Eastern civilizations.

Certainly there are works from other cultures worthy of inclusion, but for the most part, works selected by "correct" schools are Westernized or appeal to the sympathies of the victimized minorities. The pursuit of Truth becomes secondary to pleasing politically powerful minority groups.

The politically correct, while proclaiming themselves the defenders of minorities, have actually hurt them by destroying admissions standards based on merit and by undermining academic standards. America must act now to save its future.

Photo Opportunity



Shooter does the Marilyn



Trent tries "Herring's Transcendental Meditation"



Mr. Boss tunes in before class

OPINIONS

With Extreme Prejudice

Alex Rogers
Editor-in-Chief

The other day, I heard a fellow student pronounce a religious epithet; when challenged, this student replied that it was his first amendment right to say whatever he pleased.

Utilizing the first amendment to justify an unthinking, insensitive, prejudicial remark makes a travesty of every right which this amendment upholds, especially in an institution whose goals are to nurture gentlemen and scholars.

Decrying a person on grounds such as race or religion is neither the act of a gentleman nor a scholar. As students at MBA, we have a responsibility to maintain a tradition of honor. Though not within the purview of the school's honor code, prejudicial statements should fall within each student's personal code of honor.

True honor comes not

from winning the game or scoring well on a test, but in dealings with fellow men. If we, not only as students of MBA, but also as members of the larger community, continue to judge others on criteria reflecting artificial distinctions, then individuality vanishes.

True honor comes not from winning the game or scoring well on a test, but in dealings with fellow men.

Without the differences that make up each person and each culture, MBA would be stagnant and boring. All people bring a

unique perspective to how life is lived; by mocking those of different religions or races, the perpetrator demonstrates an unwillingness to go beyond a limited scope of experience.

Simply by being high school students, we admit a desire to learn. Learning is a process of expanding horizons and exploring new vistas. By accepting and welcoming cultural differences, MBA's student body stands

much to gain and nothing to lose, for with diversity comes vitality.

To take advantage of the possibilities, there is but one requirement - an open mind. If MBA can foster an image of openmindedness, then perhaps more of those of different backgrounds will seek out the exceptional opportunities at MBA; however, it is the responsibility of the student body to at least create an environment in which diversity will thrive and be welcomed.

If we remain silent and allow a vocal minority to present a view of an uncaring MBA, then the students who are the true gentlemen and scholars are being denied their rightful due - an heterogeneous environment.

I therefore implore everyone at school to think about what is said, for with one uncaring word, a person not only denies himself honor, but a wealth of possibility as well.

Governmental Racism

Robert Howell

To quote Jim Morrison, "labels are shortcuts to thinking." This statement applies to racism. Racism is a trend that eliminates all individuality. When racism occurs, assumptions are made about people and their characteristics based upon a label. We eliminate the rational thought process that is supposed to be the human's means to survive.

Racism also gives people of one race an automatic self-esteem based on their affiliation with an allegedly superior race. As Ayn Rand says, "The overwhelming majority of racists are men who have earned no sense of personal identity, who can claim no individual achievement or self-distinction, and who seek the illusion of a 'tribal self-esteem' by alleging the inferiority of some other tribe." This is not a characteristic of men of intellect or accom-

plishment. Racism is the primitive, irrational shortcut.

The view of race is one that needs to see a change in its place in American culture. Despite the evil that exists in racism, this change must be one of individual choice. The state of man and the state of racism is not bettered by forced action. A man forced to be non-discriminatory is merely an oppressed racist. Even this, however, is not the issue. The problem that must be recognized is that any attempt to ameliorate racism within policy action is in itself racist.

The policy of racial quotas is one that affects our entire population in the form of job quotas and college admission quotas. Though they are utilized to eliminate racism, these policies merely institutionalize, intensify, and guarantee racism. Quotas in the United States group Afro-Americans

into a collective in the same way that racist policies against them do. The evil is still present; it merely works to the advantage of a different group. Quotas are a form of collective punishment. They punish one collective, in this case Caucasians, for the sins of their ancestors; hence, they remove individual characteristics and replace them with color.

Racism is evil, and it is a plague that humans must overcome. It represents collectivist shortcuts to thinking, and elimination of individual rights. When we try to rectify problems caused by racism through collectivist racism itself, however, the cause is forfeited. It is a prime example of two immoral actions not substantiating one virtuous one. Racism is a blinding force that abandons our faculties of reason, and leads us into darkness.

The Nature of Generalizations

John Wesley
Copy Editor

I have been personally offended by a comment made in assembly.

Although the speaker did not aim his remark at me, the significance of his statement, as well as its reception by the audience, troubled me.

The boy at the podium was talking about a coming athletic contest against a local school. After encouraging the student body to

"It is no joke to be malicious; never are jokes pleasing which cause harm." Seneca

give their support to the team, he proceeded to draw a gross and deleterious generalization about the type of student that attended the other school.

The boy most likely did not mean to cause any damage, but being unprepared to speak, he tried to be humorous and lost control of his words.

Not all jokes are bad, and many times this boy has been entertaining at the podium.

But as Seneca pointed out, "It is no joke to be malicious; never are jokes pleasing which cause harm."

The first victim of this comment is the student body of the other school. All the efforts, all the achievements, and all the personal qualities of those students are negated by sneering cynicism. Each student of that institution loses his personal integrity and individual identity and is considered a worthless failure.

Additionally, subtle and unchallenged biases and preconceptions may slip into the minds of the audience under the guise of a "joke." The original generalization then makes the audience into generalists, and they, in turn, spread their own half-truths to others.

... subtle and unchallenged biases and preconceptions may slip into the minds of the audience under the guise of a "joke."

The second victim is our own school. By characterizing others as bad, we are implying that we are better than they.

What would have happened if a member of the press or a visitor from the community had been visiting our school that day? We would be

characterized as callous, without any respect for others. Each member of the student body

would suffer the same consequence as the other school's students: we would lose our own personal worth in the eyes of others; we would be judged not by who we are and what we do, but rather by where we go to school. MBA is a highly visible leader in the midstate community; in academics, in sports, and in citizenship, our students consistently strive to do their best.

We must, therefore, continue to preserve and to prove our merit.

Most ironically, the greatest victim is the speaker, himself. He does not intend to be injurious, but because of his lack of preparation, he characterizes himself, in the eyes of the audience, as unintelligent, unrestrained, and hypocritical, with an unreal perception of the world.

Any public speaker has a tremendous power to affect others and, consequently, a tremendous responsibility.

The speaker is accountable for what he says; for, as Horace indicates, "You can erase

that which has not yet been said, but the voice once spoken can never be recalled."

Let us, therefore, be responsible in the manner that we bear ourselves and treat others.

Massey Chronicle

Junior School Sports Update

Lee Hampton

This year the Junior school sports teams have been doing very well, with both teams having been in or in the process of having or accomplishing a winning record. The cross country team has defeated: Brentwood Middle, Grassland Middle, Christ Presbyterian,

Brentwood Academy, Battleground Academy, University School, Franklin Road Academy, Ensworth and David Lipscomb. Leading the charge are James Gunn and Jim Alley who are consistently getting first and second place between them. Other high-

scorers include Matthew Garth, Brandon Plunkett, Jon Daniel, Stephen Wall, Philip Zimmerman, and Stephen Marler. Now to football. The microbe team started out to a 0-3 start, but beat Christ the King (7-0) and Brentwood Middle (14-8).

They have two games remaining against Ensworth and David Lipscomb. Key players are Max Fuller, Jeff Page, Brad Maggart, John Garton, Andy Anderson, Larry Vranka, Will Sutherland, and John Molendon.

Junior School Up and Running

Brian Stults

With the football season and upcoming elections, M.B.A. is in full swing this year.

The construction of the Joe C. Davis Building has created excitement on campus. The building will provide facilities for the Fine Arts and a new dining hall.

It is anticipated to be a great success. Another well-noted activity this fall is the Junior School athletics. The cross country team has done well in its first meets.

The tennis team has also been successful, despite a slow start, the football team has played well.

Top Ten Things You're Most Likely to Hear in Junior School Science Labs

- | | |
|---|---|
| 10. Aiye!! | 5. So, skin does burn! |
| 9. Ka-boom! | 4. I smell smoke! |
| 8. What happens when I stick my hand in this thing? | 3. But what happens when I light it? |
| 7. Oops! | 2. O.K., so I shouldn't have lit the match. |
| 6. Ouch! That hurts. | 1. Stop, drop, and roll! |

8th Grade News

Grant Martin

This year, the eighth grade has a new teacher named Mr. Demong. His unique style of teaching English has the eighth grade baffled. Mr. Demong, however, is simply trying to teach us how to think.

After Mrs. Brewer's diagramming courses last year, Mr. Demong uses a whole new approach to teaching English," says Zach Smith. Most of Demong's students feel this way. "We do diagram sentences, but in a way only seen by Mr. Demong's boarding school class in Hudson, Ohio," says Brooks Hoffstetter.

Though peculiar, Mr. Demong's methods have been helpful. Like Mr. Demong, the eighth grade is adjusting well to the new year. Latin is the only new subject this year. Even though we have not received our grades, everyone is enjoying the 1991 year.

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Red Hot Chili Peppers: *Blood Sugar Sex Magik*

Eric Greenwood

It's been two years since the Red Hot Chili Peppers stormed across the music scene with their ultra funky *Mother's Milk* album. Since then the Chili Peppers have indulged in such illustrious activities as getting arrested, performing on Club M.T.V.!!!, and doing a commercial with Andre Agassi.

This past summer the Chili Peppers teamed up with Rick Ruben of Cult fame to create yet another relentlessly funky album. The result is *Blood Sugar Sex Magik*—a combination of old style Chili Pepper funk mixed with the modern influential aspects of bands like Jane's Addiction.

The album opens with "The Power Of Equality", an assault on upper class white supremacy. The disco funk of "If You Have To Ask" re-

sembles a hip-hop style complemented by Anthony Keidis' colorful lyrics. "Breaking The Girl" breaks new ground for the band incorporating John Frusciante's rhythmical acoustics with Anthony Keidis' powerful melodies.

After signing a major deal with Warner Brothers Records, it was assumed that the Chili Peppers would be aiming for more commercial stardom, but this album shows no signs of a sell-out. In fact the album traces its roots back to the anti-com-

mercial days of their self-titled debut and *Freaky Styley*. Lyrically, *Blood Sugar Sex Magik* rises above any previous works by the band.

Moving from the environmental awareness of "The Righteous and the Wicked" to the alienation of "Under The Bridge", this album encompasses many powerful lines. The main theme of the album, however, is of course, sex. The sexual innuendos of "Give It Away" and the blatant crudeness of "Sir Psycho" pretty much sum up the Chili Peppers' world view.

After the release of

Mother's Milk in 1989, the Chili Peppers played an incredible show at the National Guard Armory here in Nashville, and if you missed them then you may get a second chance when the band hits the road later this year. Seeing the Red Hot Chili Peppers live is definitely something you don't want to miss.



From the
Annals of
W-5:
He gives twice
who swiftly
gives.

Double Impact

Sonny Heiser

I recently saw *Double Impact*, the latest installment in the Jean Claude Van Damme movie collection. While going into the theater, my companion, not the Van Damme aficionado that I am attacked Claude's manliness with such comments as, "He's only 5' 10." "Arnold could rip him in two," and the very foolish "I

could take him anyway." Sure you could. While it's true his fights are choreographed and not very many blows actually connect, one only has to see a movie or two of his to begin to stop the innane comments.

The latest movie, *Double Impact*, involves twins separated a few months after birth and then reunited

twenty-four years later to avenge their father's death at the hands of a Japanese mobster/businessman.

While the plot is slightly unbelievable, one must remember that the plot isn't the reason for Van Damme's movie success. One watches a Van Damme movie to "learn'em good."

Nevertheless, since Van Damme plays both heroes, the unique photography should be applauded.

The only problem I found with the movie is Van Damme's use of a gun, which triples the usual death rate of

his enemies; yet, it unfortunately keeps hand-to-hand combat down to a minimum, compared to his other movies.

If one really wants to view Van Damme at his best, I highly recommend *Bloodsport* and *Cyborg*, classics in my Van Damme Movie Collection, of which *Kickboxer*, *Death Warrant*, and *Lionheart* are also members.

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Country Corner

Greg Holyfield

Welcome to the first column in *The Bell Ringer* about country music. Country music, in my opinion, is the best music around right now. The mood is set by the lyrics and the music.

Country music is about real life and real people.. The songs deal with many facets of life. That is why I along with many other people enjoy country music.

The second week of October was CMA week, highlighted by the CMA awards at the Grand Ole Opry. Reba Macentire hosted the show which included performances by Reba herself, Travis Tritt, Vince Gill and the Patty Loveless duo, and Alan Jackson.

Garth Brooks put all of his heart into the song "Shameless" written by Billy Joel which he performed at the show. Brooks won most of the awards (4) including Entertainer of the Year. Travis Tritt walked away with the Horizon Award given to the best new artist of the year. Vince Gill stunned many people by beating Garth Brooks in the category for Best Male Vocalist. The CMA awards were honored by the presence of President and Mrs. Bush at the show. Country music is better than ever with a new freshness and excitement.

Coming in concert: Garth Brooks with Trisha Yearwood - November 7 at Murphy Center. Tickets went on sale October 8. Clint Black with special guests Merle Haggard and Lorrie Morgan - October 17 at Municipal Auditorium.

The Golden Youth of Madison Lott: Movie with Meaning

Robert Howell

Despite the seeming failure of the movie industry to release any films of note in recent years, there still can be found token gold mines among the reel wasteland. *The Golden Youth of Madison Lott* is evidence of such remaining greatness. Directed by the up and coming talent, Charles Thompson, the movie reveals a plot of substance, a brilliant score of music by Trent Reznor, and an underlying philosophy that combines the nihilism of Nietzsche, the brilliance of Aristotle, and even the epistemological views of Wittgenstein.

Set in New York City, the film is predictably crowded with action; however, not in the usual sense. For one thing, the scenery mutates throughout the movie, changing from the Big Apple, to a rural Wisconsin town, to Athens, Greece and then back again to New York. Such cinematography and special effects is unprecedented. Along with the scenery, the characters slowly change to make it seem as if three movies are being watched at once.

The action is started as the young Madison views a murder from his rhubarb stand. Vaulting over the

counter, he begins his pursuit of the murderer. This begins his stint of

crime-fighting. The next phase of his life which we view, is his life on a sailboat on the Mediterranean. He spends his time as an hedonistic playboy, flipping in and out of romance. Despite his crime-fighting past, his inner corruption is viewed. During the middle ten minutes of this three hour

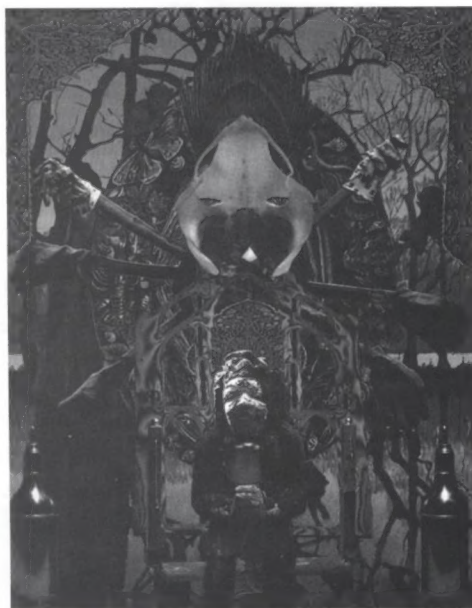
explosion, scenes of ninjas who glow in the dark prevail. Instead of their nor-

an idea of the depth of the film, it is necessary that lines be quoted. A prime ex-

ample is when Abu the Whip Master exclaims the difference between a clever midget and a venereal disease, or when he shouts, "Mah brother wants to fahit chew-www". A favorite

do you think of elephants?" When people didn't respond, he would shout "What is the matter with elephants!!!" Based on their response, he would psycho-analyze them. The final character of importance is Mustapha the wine merchant who was a poetic terrorist. His favorite slogans are "young children have beautiful feet", "gay zionism", and "bleeding head good, healed head bad". His favorite activity of demonstrating ontological anarchy is entering citibank computer customer service areas during their busy periods, defecating upon the floor, and then leaving.

Despite all of the obvious vulgarities that exist in the film, the message conveyed is very real: that society is a lawnmower, and individuals are merely weeds in its path. This movie is not advertised for a reason. It is not for everyone, but if mine and other critics' predictions are correct, in twenty years, it will be referred to as the Nostradamus of our time. I would suggest that anyone with questions about life view this movie, and in the words of Madison "let's take our pistols to bed and wake up the city at midnight like drunken bandits celebrating with a fusillade, the message of the taste of chaos".



mal grunts and groans, they exclaim important phrases and aphorisms to demonstrate that the pen really is mightier than the sword.

In order to give anyone

character, and a friend of Madison's is Jobu Tanali, who has a theory of psychology based upon staring at individuals and asking "What



Skipworth salutes Jackson Wray!

Jackson is president of the Honor Council, copy editor of the annual, and a member of cum laude and Totomoi.

Skipworth EXCEPTIONAL PORTRAITURE

TOP TEN THINGS YOU'RE LEAST LIKELY TO HEAR AT MBA

Morituri Te Salutant

10. Paul Devgan say anything at all
9. David Fitzgerald: "No seriously, I couldn't get a date last weekend."
8. Glenn Harris: "Yeah Doc, I feel good, can't seem to find an injury."
7. Eric Ericson: "Guys, you know that story I told you, I made it up."
6. Joe Underwood pronounce a word clearly in assembly
5. Chris Johnston: "I assume full responsibility for the incident."
4. Brett Sanders: "I admit it, you're better than I am."
3. Bo Barthlomew: "Phooey, curses!!!"
2. Patrick Hale complete a sentence without using the pronoun "I" or "me"
1. John Wallace: "Go VOLs!"

SPORTS

Golf Report . . .

Continued from Page 10

seven consecutive matches. The best match of the season took place within these seven matches.

On September 11, the team of D.J., Drew, Tucker, and Larry traveled to McCabe golf course and country club to play Brentwood High. Highlighted by a chipped in eagle by Tucker Warren on the third hole, the team shot a one-over par 141 crushing Brentwood by 19 strokes. Tucker shot a two-under 33, D.J. finished at 34, Drew came in even par 35, and Larry a 39. Unfortunately soon after this inspirational win, the team took its second loss to Goodpasture. Only Six days latter MBA came back to

win the rematch by only one stroke. With only two losses, the varsity completed its season with no more. The revenge was sweetest against reigning district and regional champs Ryan who were defeated by thirteen late in the season.

This year's addition of a B-team or Junior Varsity allowed many more people to play in the tournament environment. Several members of the J-V got to play in varsity matches as well. These people were: Greg Jones, Brent Miller, Roe Elam, Jeremy Hagan, Kyle Hatcher, and Charlie Malone. Greg Jones was also elected the official spokesman for this year's golfers.

JV Football defeats Pearl-Cohn

Will Berry

The 1991 edition of the J.V. football team opened its season at Overton on September 16, after six weeks of practice with the varsity. The squad, comprised of some juniors and sophomores, played hard but lost in a defensive struggle 6-2.

Highlights of the game were: the sack of the Wildcat quarterback, causing a safety; the tackling prowess of linebackers Brad Maggart, Ed Martin, and Derrick Buckspan; Baker Eadie's receptions; and the passing of Parkes Owen.

After this disappointing loss, the J.V. waited for two weeks to avenge their

previous defeat. On Monday, September 30, the firebirds of Pearl-Cohn invaded MBA.

The Big Red started strong, jumping out to a 19-0 lead by capitalizing on Firebird miscues. Brad Maggart's return of a fumbled kick-off led to one touchdown, and Parkes Owen's six-yard touchdown pass accounted for another.

Late in the third quarter, the Big Red became a little complacent as Pearl-Cohn running backs broke multiple long runs, and eventually took the lead 20-19, with a touchdown late in the fourth quarter.

The Big Red, how-

ever, would not be denied a victory and refused to quit. A last gasp drive ended with a dramatic game-winning field goal by Bobby Zaph with twenty-five seconds remaining, for a 22-20 win.

Leading the offensive charge was the line of Berry, Rose, Gavigan, Maggart, and Russel. Standing out on the defensive side of the ball were Bradley Sloan, Harrison Johnston, Hal Pickell, and the house himself, Ford Simpkins. The punt returns of Julian Bibb also were integral to the success of the team.

Varsity Football . . .

Continued from Page 10

After defeating three strong opponents, the Big Red regrouped and attempted to avoid a let-down by the always dangerous Pearl-Cohn Firebirds.

A thirty-yard touchdown run set the tone for the game. By capitalizing on numerous Firebird miscues, the Big Red rolled to a 34-12 victory.

Andy Russ's three touchdowns along with R.A. Dickey's touchdown pass to Michael Weldon were the

highlights of the game.

Upcoming games for the Big Red are three consecutive home contests against Hunters Lane, Tullahoma, and Whites Creek.

Thus far the backfield of Weaver, Johnston, Harris and Dickey backed up by Russ, Crawford, Weldon, and Parks Owen has performed well.

The men up front are tackles Ward and Moser, guards Smithson and Ward with Seshul at center.

The tight ends are

Bartholomew and Koon, while Wray and Cummings anchor the receiving corps.

Up front on defense are tackles Bartholomew, Sitton and Stahl along with Moser at noseguard.

The defensive ends are Palmer, Wood, Koon, and Hamling backed up by the linebacking corps of Weaver, Crawford, and Durret.

Providing excellent defense in the secondary are Johnston, Wray, Russ, Harris, Fuqua, and Arendale.

Freshman Football . . .

Continued from Page 10

man came up short. Led by full back Dave Sifford and wing back Billy Hemcade on the grand, the Fresh battled the entire day.

In the first half, Ryan took an early 7-0 lead. The MBA offense stalled and no drive was effaced until the second half. In the second half, MBA had the ball inside the 20 four times, yet the Fresh could not connect. Then with only minutes remaining and the ball on the one-inch

line, the Fresh fumbled on a second-and-goal play. With that fumble, Ryan snuffed out any hopes for a Fresh victory.

Despite the loss, the Fresh showed a strong defense as Buck Blair stepped in to play well. Also, Dave Sifford and Straton Huggins played strong line backers. Other key players were Jeff Dale, Fletcher Tidwell, Brian Camp and T.J. Wilt who played very well at defensive tackle.



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SPORTS

Big Red Football 4-0

Will Berry

After the hot August two-a-days and several scrimmages, the Big Red was eager to begin its season against the strong Dragons of Warren Central in Bowling Green.

After a Dragon fumble on their first possession, the Big Red capitalized on a short touchdown by Glenn Harris. The Dragons stormed back late in the first quarter with a touchdown drive of their own, tying the score.

Before intermission, the teams exchanged touchdowns, but a missed field goal gave the Big Red a one point edge at halftime.

In the third quarter, the defense led by Shad Weaver, Eric Crawford, and Chris Johnston shut down the Dragon's offense and provided the Big Red with the field position it needed.

Quarterback Joe Underwood then led a drive which ended in Harris's third touchdown of the game with the score 21-13. After a punt which landed on the ten yard

line, the Dragons began their final drive in the remaining two minutes. Exhibiting a passing offense which had been non-existent, Warren County drove deep into Big Red territory. The defense came up big in the clutch, however, when Joe Under-

wood intercepted an errant pass to secure the victory. Playing well in their debuts as starters were the juniors Andy Ward and Joseph Sitton.



Photo by Justin Crosslin

The following Friday, MBA returned for its

first home game to take on the Bobcats of Overton, upon the dedication of the Tommy Owen Stadium. After the emotional ceremony, the Big Red took the field to defeat the Bobcats 16-10. Game highlights include Andy Russ's first field goal of the season, a touchdown by Glenn Harris, and the overall defense, which withstood the Bobcats high-powered rushing attack for much of the game.

The victory was not without cost, as Underwood broke his collar in the second quarter. R.A. Dickey, Joe's backup, filled in capably and led the team to victory.

Dickey was again at the helm when the injury-plagued squad traveled to Cleveland, Tennessee to take on the third ranked team in the state.

The Big Red upended the highly-touted Raiders in a game of muscles. The defense played extremely well, causing three fumbles and intercepting two passes, both by Jackson Wray.

The offense moved into scoring territory several times resulting in two long field goals by Russ and a one yard touchdown run by Harris.

A goal line stand in the second quarter changed the momentum of the game and ultimately led to the victory.

A final clock consuming drive of short runs by Weaver and Harris behind a strong offensive line iced the victory 13-10.

Continued on Page 9

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Golf Report

Tommy Lawrence

As of October 2, the 1991 MBA golf team had been very successful through the regular season compiling a 13-2 record. Coach Caldwell is bringing back three lettermen from last year's team: D.J. Salinas, Drew Patterson, and Tom Lawrence. Four young newcomers to the varsity squad appeared this year in freshmen Tucker Warren, Larry Underwood, Richard Douglas, and Cooper Jones.

These four will certainly be an asset to the golf team in future years.

On August 26, the team opened its season at scenic Ted Rhodes golf course against a very experienced FRA squad. The combination of D.J., Drew, Tucker, and Cooper shot a 165, but was edged out by only five strokes for the first loss of the season. The Big Red rebounded quickly to win the next...

Continued on Page 9

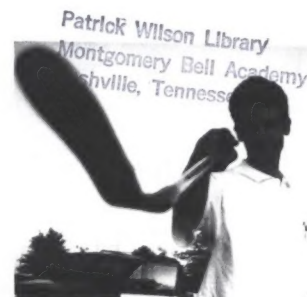


Photo by Tommy Lawrence

Freshman Football

Julian Bibb

The Freshman Football team is off to a great start. In their first three games, they have proven successful twice. Both games were blowouts with a combination of outstanding offensive and defensive play.

In the first game, MBA faced powerhouse team Stratford. The freshman got off to a slow start, letting Stratford take the early 6-0 lead. But by the end of the first half, MBA extinguished the Spartans, producing a 28-6 victory. According to coach Herring, "The solid blocking of Greer and Corts helped us in our win."

Next, MBA faced Hill-

wood at home. The Big Red came rolling out and jumped to an early lead. On the Fresh's first possession, J.T. Davenport took the ball and "bone danced" his way through the line, then turned into high gear all the way to the zone, for a seventy yard touchdown. Quarterbacks Andrew Walker and Monty Poe helped to lead the Fresh's second victory. Also with the help of Ted Morrissey and Dave Hoffstader, the Fresh were able to roll another 28-6 victory.

In the third game against rival Father Ryan, the Fresh-

Continued on Page 9

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